

In order for the Office Action to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, at least three criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to those of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the primary reference as proposed by the Office Action. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Third, the prior art references must disclose or suggest all the claim limitations. MPEP 2143. For the reasons set forth below, Applicant maintain that the Office Action fails to establish a prima facie case of obviousness.

Applicant's claim 1 describes an electromagnetic assembly comprises a ring case, a coil bobbin, and a connector arrangement. The ring case comprises a first end having an opening formed therein, and a second end having an annular groove formed therein. Moreover, the coil bobbin is disposed in the annular groove, and the coil bobbin comprises a ring member. The ring member comprises a tubular spool with a pair of annular flanges projecting radially from the tubular spool. Further, the connector arrangement comprises a body portion, and a projection portion extending from the body portion and into the opening. Specifically, the projection portion directly contacts one of the annular flanges of the ring member. See, e.g., Appl'n, **Fig. 8** (emphasis added.) For example, Applicant's specification describes that an electromagnetic assembly 17 may comprise a connector arrangement 15, a coil bobbin 3, and a ring case 4. Connector arrangement 15 may comprise a projection portion 15a₃ extending from a body portion (not numbered) of connector arrangement 15. Coil bobbin 3 may comprise a ring member 1, and coil bobbin 3 may be positioned inside ring case 4. Moreover, ring case 4 may have an opening 4a formed therein, and ring member 1 may include a pair of annular flanges (not numbered but shown in **Fig. 8**). Specifically, opening 4a receives projection portion 15a₃ of connector 15, such that an end of projection portion 15a₃ engages/contacts one of the annular flanges of ring member 1. Projection portion 15a₃ subsequently may be fixed adhesively, e.g., by high frequency adhesion, ultrasonic adhesion, or the like, to the end surface of ring member 1. See, e.g., Appl'n, Page 6, Lines 7-18.

In contrast, AAPA describes an electromagnetic assembly 7 comprising a connector 5, a coil bobbin 3, and a ring case 4. Connector 5 may comprise a case 5a and a projection portion 5a₃. Coil bobbin 3 may comprise a ring member 1, ring member 1 may comprise a pair of annular flanges (not numbered but shown in **Fig. 4**), and ring case 4 may have

an opening 4a formed therein. Opening 4a receives projection portion 5a₃ of connector 5, such that a gap is formed between projection portion 5a₃ and the annular flange of ring member 1 which is closest to projection portion 5a₃. Moreover, case 5a is fixed to ring case 4 by a pair of hooks 10a, and coil bobbin 3 is fixed to ring case 4 by resin 13 poured into ring case 4. An O-ring 11, which is positioned between case 5a and ring case 4, prevents resin 13 from leaking outside ring case 4 through a gap formed between projection portion 5a₃ and case 5a. As such, resin 13 fills the gap between projection portion 5a₃ and ring member 1. See, e.g., Appl'n, Page 1, Lines 24-31; Page 2, Lines 16-21; and Fig. 4. Nevertheless, because the gap is formed between projection portion 5a₃ and the annular flange of ring member 1 which is closest to projection portion 5a₃, projection portion 5a₃ does not contact either of the annular flanges of ring member 1 when projection portion 5a₃ is inserted within opening 4a.

Ishimaru describes an electromagnetic clutch comprising a yoke 3, a coil bobbin 17, and a terminal base 27. Yoke 3 has an annular groove 3a formed therein, and a hole 3e formed therethrough. Coil bobbin 17 comprises an inner coil bobbin 18 and an outer coil bobbin 19, which are joined together and then inserted in annular groove 3a. Moreover, outer coil bobbin 19 includes a cylindrical opening portion 19c, and terminal base 27 comprises a casing 34 which has a protruding opening portion 34a. Cylindrical opening portion 19c is forcibly inserted in a center hole of a rubber bush 35 which is positioned in protruding opening portion 34a. (Emphasis added.) Although cylindrical opening portion 19c and protruding opening portion 34a each contact rubber bush 35, they do not contact each other. See, e.g., Ishimaru, Column 8, Lines 58-66. As such, Ishimaru fails describe that a projection portion of a connecting member directly contacts an annular flange of a ring member of a coil bobbin, as set forth in claim 1. Thus, AAPA in view of Ishimaru also fails to describe an electromagnetic assembly in which the projection portion directly contacts the annular flange of the ring member, as described in amended claim 1. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the obviousness rejection of claim 1.

Claims 2 and 4 depend from claim 1. "If an independent claim is non-obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious." MPEP 2143.03 (citations omitted). Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner also withdraw the obviousness rejection of claims 2 and 4.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and such disposition is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that an interview with Applicant's representatives, either in person or by telephone, would expedite prosecution of this application, we would welcome such an opportunity. Applicant believes that no fees are due as a result of this response. Nevertheless, in the event of any variance between the fees determined by Applicant and those determined by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, please charge any such variance to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 02-0375.

Respectfully submitted,

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